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HAND BOOK SERIES

HISTORY  
OF THE  
**SUSSEX FOWL**



CONTAINING THE  
**ENGLISH AND AMERICAN**  
**STANDARD of PERFECTION**

**ILLUSTRATED**

American Sussex Poultry Club, Publishers  
Hackensack, N. J.



Brett, Wallace &

# HAND BOOK SERIES

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American Sussex Poultry Club, Publishers  
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By WILLIAM H. BRATT

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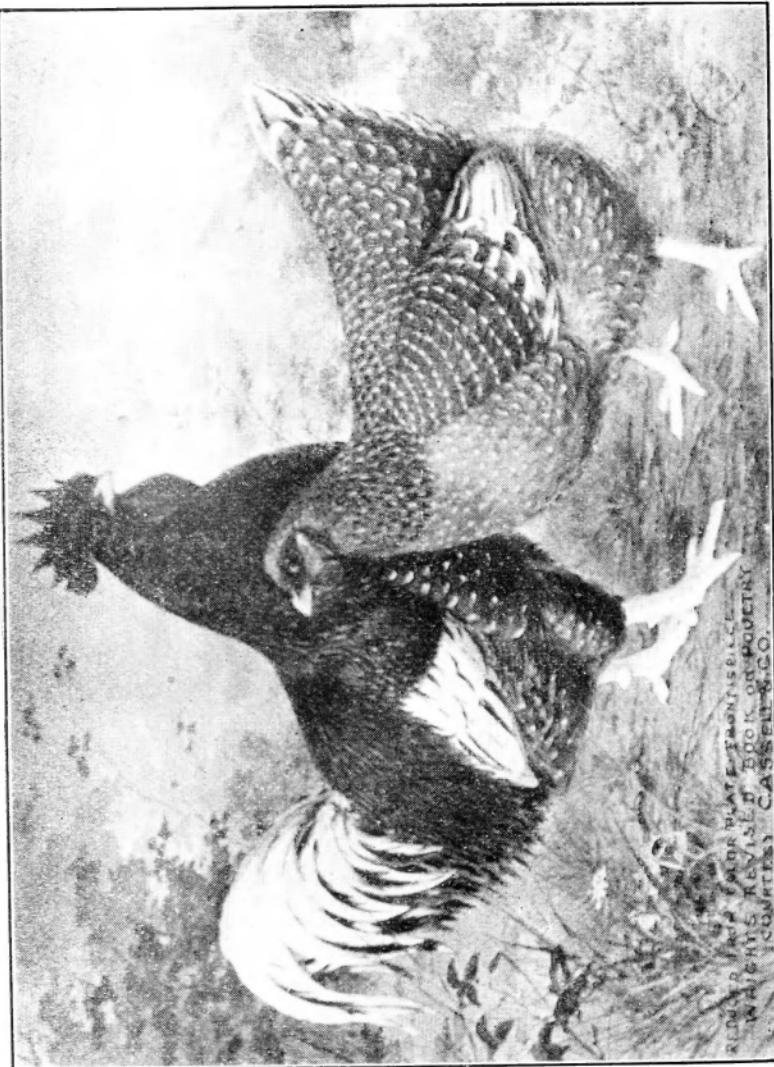
## Dedicated to the A. P. A.

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**Apologizing to the shade of Aesop for this:**

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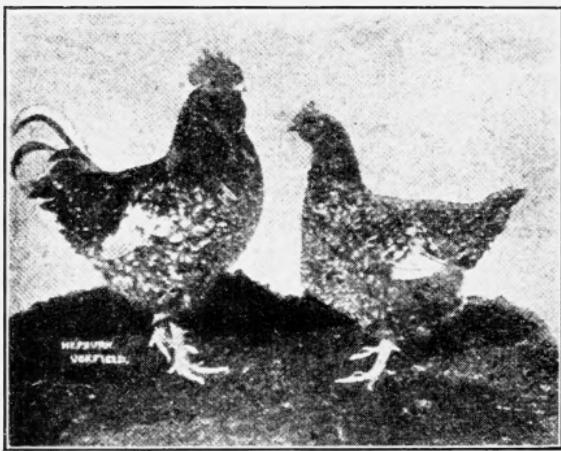
The Lion, the Ass and the Fox went hunting together in a forest; and it was agreed, that whatever was taken should be divided amongst them. They happened to have very good sport, and caught a large fat stag, which the Lion ordered the Ass to divide. The Ass, to the best of his ability did so, making three very equal shares. This division not suiting the craving temper of the greedy Lion, he sprang upon the Ass, and tore him to pieces; and forthwith ordered the Fox to divide it into two parts. Reynard had his cue sufficiently for this occasion, and nibbling off a piece of one ear for himself, laid down the rest as the Lion's portion. The royal brute was so delighted that he could not forbear expressing his satisfaction, and asked the Fox where he had learnt so proper and courtly behaviour. "Why," replied Reynard, "to tell your majesty the truth, I was taught it by the Ass that lies dead there."



RINGDRAKE COLOR PLATE FROM ISLE  
WRIGHT HUS REVISED BOOK OF POETRY  
LICOMBE, CASSELL & CO.

# The Sussex Fowl

The county of Sussex, England, has for centuries been prominently identified with the raising of chickens and from what we can learn from Wright, Lewis, Brown and others of authority, it would appear that the ground of Sussex is particularly adapted to the industry, the lime deposit being directly responsible for large oat crops which is the chief, almost exclusive ration, in rearing and fattening for market. Long before the time of modern railroad freight, wagons left the Sussex districts every night for London loaded down with select poultry that had been carefully plucked and shaped to the requirement of the metropolitan market and we are told the industry has now become so extensive, so systemized and the expense of handling cut so fine that the cost of consigning a bird from the fatters to the commission merchant in London is approximately two cents per bird. An idea of the extent of the industry can be formed by referring to Mr. Wright, who is authority for the statement that in 1899 the town of

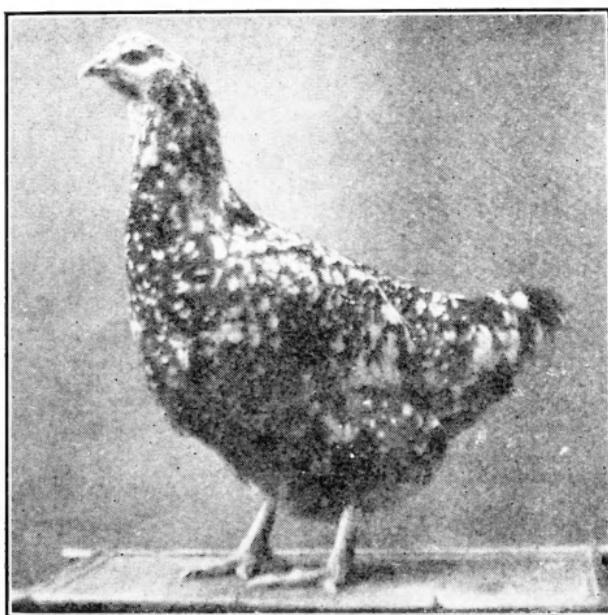


This Cut Represents the Type Adopted as Standard by the  
Sussex Poultry Club of England When It Was  
Organized July, 1903

Heathfield sent in to London 2,500 tons of dead poultry, equivalent to 16,000 lbs. each day in the year (Sundays excluded) and these birds were of a uniform characteristic and quality demanded by the London poulters.

The foregoing remarks are but a prelude to our desire to show, and contention, that there had been established in this district a Sussex type that years of breeding and catering to a certain market had marked as distinctive from all others. In this particular the effort of all authorities is practically lost in antiquity, and Mr. Wright, the foremost authority, is responsible for the description that a half century ago the greater proportion of Sussex fowl were known by their delicate white legs, four claws, very broad and square bodies, feathering of varied colors, but principally brown or bay more or less speckled with white and black.

Continuing further and bearing on the origin of the Dark Dorking, a mass of evidence is produced, showing the latter to be the result of a cross between the White Dorking and the Sussex Fowl. In relation to this assumption there is but one dissenter, Mr. Harrison Weir, (who, by the way, does not doubt the existence of the Sussex fowl a century ago but the admixture that produced the colored Dorking). In doubting Weir's right to challenge the statement that Sussex blood was infused, Mr. Wright offers the evidence of Bonington Moubray published in 1815 and that of Nolan in 1850, and in dismissing the theory of Weir claims that the latter's views were based upon the memory of men, each of



Above Photo of Speckled Pullet Winner of Most First Prizes in England 1910, and Illustrates the Length of Body Desired at This Time.

"In shape, the Sussex breeders, to keep their breed distinctive of the Orpington, are seeking the long type and medium feathering."—F. L. Platt, Reliable Poultry Journal, Sept. 1911.

whom had an opinion as to the breeding and purity of his own stock.

The first evidence we have, however, of the Sussex fowl being placed on exhibition under their proper name was at the Lewis Poultry show of Sussex County twenty years ago when John Cole made an entry of speckled Sussex. This information is furnished us by Dr. F. V. Gravely of Greenfield, (Sussex, England,) who also states that he traced a strain of speckled Sussex that had been bred consistently for over 80 years on a farm at the foot of the Downs.

Through the courtesy of Messrs. Cassell & Co. we are able to present our readers with a reproduction of the color plate frontispiece that will appear in Wright's Revised book on poultry to be published early next year and while we regret we have not been able to review the text the presumption is that Artist Ludlow went down into the Sussex district and there sketched the old original Sussex fowl upon its native heath.

The picture follows the description we had of the bird fifty years back and adds much weight to the contention that Moubray's history was correct and that the colored Dorking is a descendant of the old speckled Sussex.

In face of what we have said, it does seem strange, however, that from a fancy and exhibition standpoint the Sussex were seldom heard from except periodically as before noted up until July, 1903, when the Sussex Poultry Club was formed and which jumped into popular favor so that in the November of the following year 163 specimens were



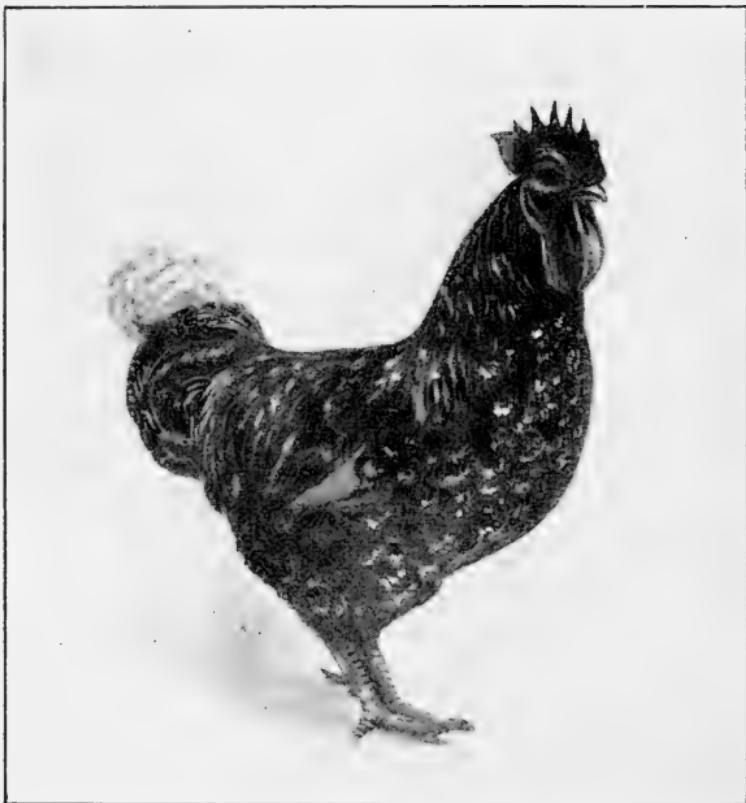
An American Bred Speckled Sussex Cock, Winner of the Blue  
Ribbon, Madison Square, Dec. 1910, Entered as a  
Diamond Jubilee Orpington

penned at the Lewes Show. An incident that might have aroused the Sussex fanciers to the protection of their breed occurred about the time of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, when it was claimed that the late Mr. Wm. Cook introduced the speckled Sussex as the Diamond Jubilee Orpington. Just how much breeding and experimenting Mr. Cook engaged in I am not prepared to say, but if he procured a "speckled Dorking now supposed to be extinct" and crossed it with a buff Orpington, producing the Diamond Jubilee Orpington, I am afraid he went to a lot of unnecessary labor, for the D. J. Orpington is today far behind the Orpington type, and specimens of speckled Sussex have repeatedly beaten the Cook cross in the show room, even tagging them with the assumed name.

I have no desire to berate the work of Mr. Cook. I have met him at Madison Square in years gone by, and the old gentleman with his high hat and white vest impressed me as he spoke chicken, more in the light of a promoter than a breeder, but whether he originated the chicken or originated the name, due credit must be given him for his enterprise.

As we commenced to say in this particular it occurs to us that the coming of the name Diamond Jubilee Orpington was the direct cause of arousing Sussex breeders to the defense of their own and bringing into the foreground a good old breed that from the show room standpoint was practically unknown, and its intrinsic worth known only to the fatters and consumers within a limited area.

At the time the Sussex Poultry Club was formed, three varieties were standardized—the speckled, light and red—



An American Bred Speckled Sussex Cock of Remarkably Fine Shape

which were also subsequently admitted to the poultry club's standard. The editor of the English Standard, Mr. W. W. Broomhead, (a well-known editor and judge) is also a member of the Sussex Poultry Club and has done much to further the interests of the breed by his writings and activity in the show room. When he judges a bird he demands type from start to finish. In speaking at the annual dinner of the Sussex Poultry Club a year or two ago he said, with much emphasis that "type made the breed and color the variety, keep to the type and try to improve the markings."

In this connection we would say that the principal object of the English club is to preserve the type and by reference to the standard it will be noted that type, size and condition count 55 points, while all other defects in head, comb, legs, feet and color count but 45.

Before advancing to the Standard let us refer to the photos which can be better read than the most vivid description. The speckled pullet shown on page 8 illustrates an almost ideal bird. She shows to advantage the great length of body so much desired at this time to stamp the type apart from that of the so-called "Orpington," which is in reality an inferior "cobby" Sussex. This bird received special mention from Judge Bunney at the Hastings show, and was looked upon as the best specimen ever exhibited. We would like you to contrast her with the bird pictured on page 18, which for general symmetrical lines and beautiful distribution of color is none of the English pullets in-



An American Bred Speckled Sussex Hen, First Prize, Madison Square, Dec. 1910, as a Pullet

ferior, the handicap lying, if at all, in a little too close feathering. The birds illustrated on pages 10 and 16 show the fallacy of the "Diamond Jubilee" claim. Here are two speckled Sussex, the cock so large, square and flat that he really looks short, and the pullet so beautiful in feather and trained in the pen that they win the blue as "Diamond Jubilees" against all comers.

When it comes to Sussex "type" the adult birds shown on pages 12 and 14 are par excellence, but it is also necessary to point out the fact that the cock bird is too dark as an exhibition specimen, while the hen is the reverse—too light. However, in parti-colored birds, here is one great essential for the proper mating of your stock to produce progeny for the show room.

In passing to the light Sussex we come to the variety that we believe Mr. S. C. Sharpe, the present secretary of the English club, can justly lay claim to originating. At the time the club was organized quite some discussion arose as to the advisability of admitting them to the standard and while birds of the light Brahma markings had been known in the district of Sussex the chief interest centered on the old speckled variety, but Mr. Sharpe, undaunted by the desire of a few to exclude the "lights," hung on to his favorite, which he had been breeding to perfection for several years and finally prevailed. It was the intention of the owner of the bird pictured on page 28 to exhibit him at Crystal Palace this fall but he informs us that procrastination—the thief of time—robbed him of the opportunity.



American Bred Speckled Sussex Pullet of 1910, Winner First  
Prize Grand Central Palace, Nov 1910 and Madison Square,  
Dec. 1910, Shown in the Diamond Jubilee Orpington Class

While the light Sussex will usually make the greatest weight the standard calls for no difference and as egg producers they fall but little short of the speckled variety. A breeder of lights in writing to Secretary Sharpe tells him that a May hatched pullet commenced laying Oct. 10, and in one year without special care with regard to feeding or housing, in town on a small place, had produced 154 eggs.

Passing on to the red Sussex pictured on pages 30-38, we are fortunate to be able to furnish several very fine photos. American breeders by careful selection and line breeding have wonderfully improved the color of the bird, still the same difficulty in color that exists in the Rhode Island red is found with the Sussex, but we think to a lesser degree.

Following the standards which are now given we conclude our booklet with a few remarks on line breeding that should be practiced by all who wish to make exhibition fowl a success.

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## Standards for Sussex

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### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF COCK

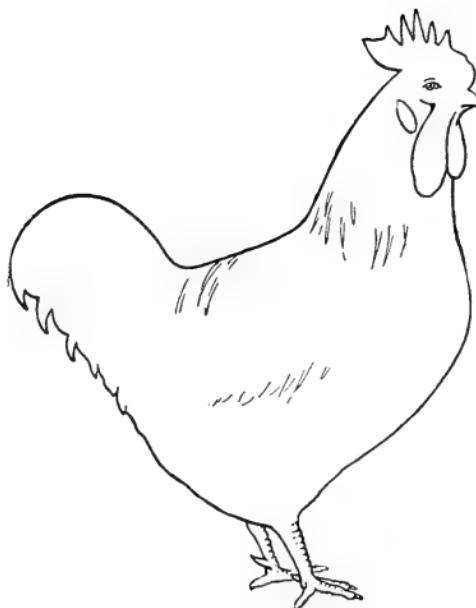
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#### Head and Neck.

Head .....	Medium size.
Beak .....	Short and strong (curved).
Eye .....	Full and bright.
Comb .....	Single, medium size, evenly separated and erect, and fitting close to the head.
Face .....	Red.
Earlobes and Wattles .....	Medium size.
Neck .....	Gracefully curved with fairly full hackle.



American Bred Speckled Sussex Pullet 1911. Seven Months Old  
When Photo Was Taken



**Body.**

Breast ..... Broad and square, carried well forward, with long and deep breast bone.  
Shoulders ..... Wide.  
Back ..... Broad and flat.  
Wings ..... Carried close to the body.  
Skin ..... Clear, and fine in texture.

**Tail.**

..... Moderate size.

**Legs and Feet.**

Thighs ..... Short and stout.  
Shanks ..... Short and strong and rather wide apart; free from feathers.  
Toes ..... Four in number, straight and well spread.

**General Shape and Carriage.**

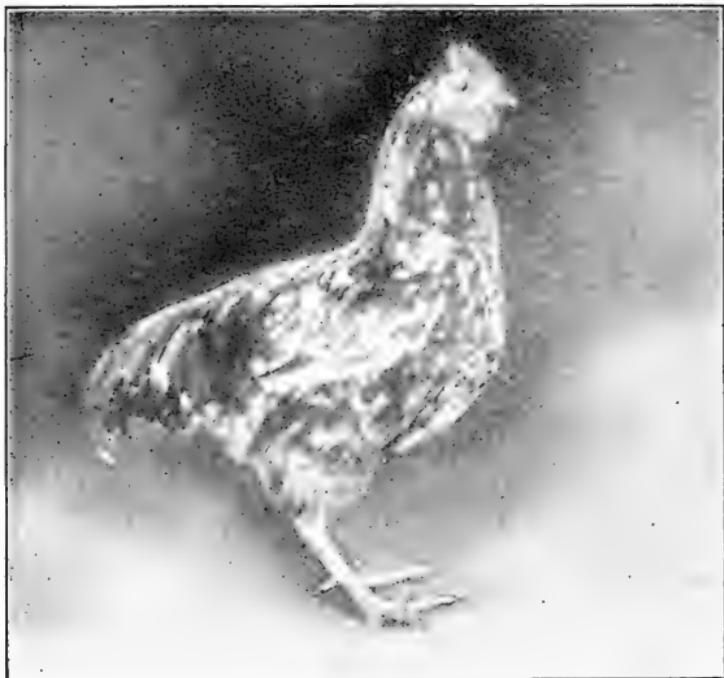
..... Cobby, compact, graceful and erect.

**Size and Weight**

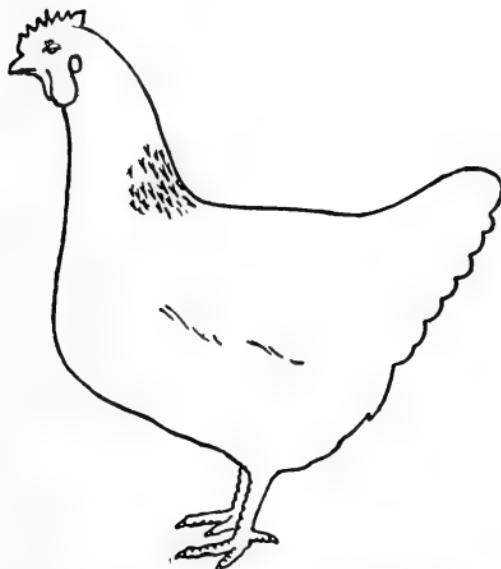
..... Large, 9-lb. and upwards.

**Plumage.**

..... Close.



American Bred Six Months Old Speckled Sussex Cockerel of  
Very Promising Shape. Main Tail Feathers Just Starting



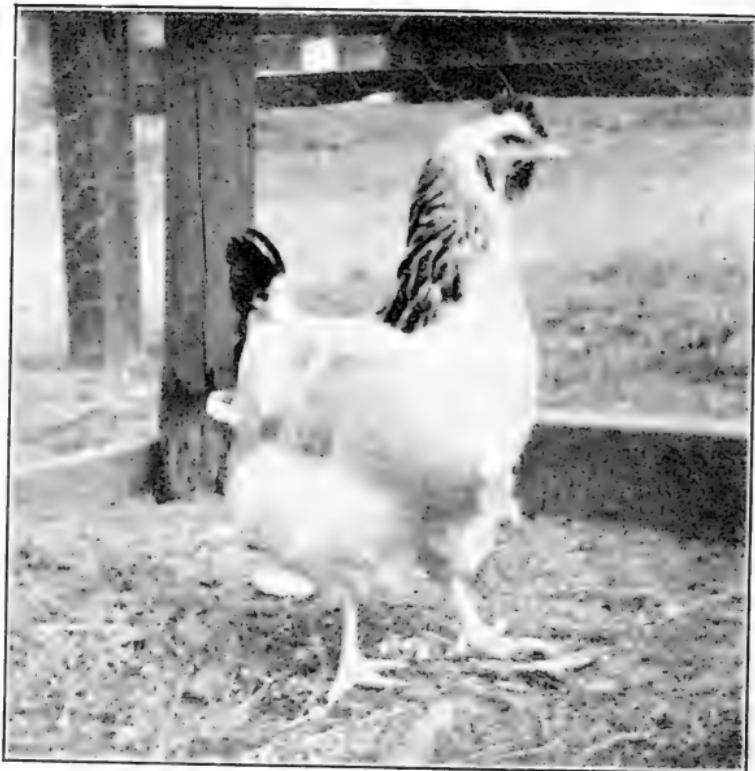
#### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HEN

<b>Head, Neck and Body.</b>	.....As in the Cock.
<b>Tail.</b>	.....Small, curved backwards, otherwise as in the Cock.
<b>Legs and Feet.</b>	.....As in the Cock.
<b>General Shape and Carriage.</b>	.....Cobby, compact, graceful and erect.
<b>Size and Weight</b>	.....Large; 7-lb. and upwards.
<b>Plumage.</b>	.....Close.

#### COLOUR IN THE RED VARIETY

##### In both Sexes

Beak .....	White or horn colour.
Eye .....	Red or brown.
Comb, face, ear-lobes and wattles	Red.
Shanks and feet	...White.
Skin and flesh	....White and fine.



American Bred Light Sussex Hen, Weight 8 lbs. Typical Shape  
and Beautiful Columbian Markings

**In the Cock.** (Plumage).

Head and neck	Glossy brown, striped with black.
Body	Dark or chestnut brown, allowing for greater depth of color on saddle and wing bow, which should be glossy.
Wings	Rich dark brown, with black in flights.
Wing bow	A solid patch of deep glossy brown.
Tail coverts	Dark brown, changing to almost black at tips.
Tail	Black.

**In the Hen.**

Head and neck	Dark brown striped with black.
Wings	Brown with black in flights.
Tail	Black.
Remainder of plumage	Brown.

**COLOUR IN THE LIGHT VARIETY**

**In both Sexes.**

Beak	White or horn colour.
Eye	Orange.
Comb, face, ear-lobes and wattles	Red.
Shanks and feet	White.
Skin and flesh	White and fine.

**In the Cock.**

Head	White.
Neck hackle	White striped with black.
Wings	White with black in flights.
Tail coverts	White slightly tipped with black.
Tail	Black.
Remainder of plumage	Pure white throughout.

**In the Hen.**

Head	White.
Neck hackle	White striped with black.
Wings	White with black in flights.
Tail	Black.
Remainder of plumage	Pure white throughout.

**COLOUR IN THE SPECKLED VARIETY**

**In both Sexes.**

Beak	White or horn colour.
Eye	Orange or brown.
Comb, face, ear-lobes and wattles	Red.
Shanks and feet	White.
Skin and flesh	White and fine.



LIGHT SUSSEX COCK

American Bred Light Sussex Cock, Well Marked and With  
Long Deep Breast

### In the Cock.

Head and neck hackle .....	Rich reddish brown striped with black and tipped with white.
Wings .....	Wing bow red, or nearly so, primaries white, or nearly so.
Saddle hackle.....	Similar to neck hackle.
Tail .....	White and black.
Remainder of plumage .....	Black, white and brown, as even speckled as possible.

### In the Hen

Wings .....	Wing bow brown, white, and black: flights white.
Tail .....	Black, white and brown.
Remainder of plumage .....	Brown, white and black, as evenly speckled as possible.

### VALUE OF POINTS IN SUSSEX

Defects.	Deduct up to.
Defects in Head and Comb.....	10
Defects in Colour.....	20
Want of Type and Flatness of back.....	20
Want of Condition.....	10
Defects in Legs and Feet.....	15
Want of Size.....	25

A Perfect Bird to Count 100

**Serious Defects**, for which Birds should be passed:—Other than four toes, wry tail; or any deformity, feather on shanks, rose comb.

### Pedigree or Line Breeding

Careful mating and selection year after year are necessary to intensify and fix a desired quality in poultry and the more points or qualities desired the greater care necessary in selection.

A little study of the laws of inheritance will be a great help in understanding the mode by which desired qualities may be intensified and undesirable ones eliminated.



LIGHT SUSSEX PULLET

American Bred Light Sussex Pullet, First Prize Paterson, N. J.,  
Dec. 1910

Like begets like, bad points as well as good, therefore to secure permanency and a larger percentage in the flock of any desired point or quality, have it as well marked as possible in both sire and dam, and to eliminate a fault, never allow it in both parents, but if one is weak in one section have the other correspondingly strong to offset it.

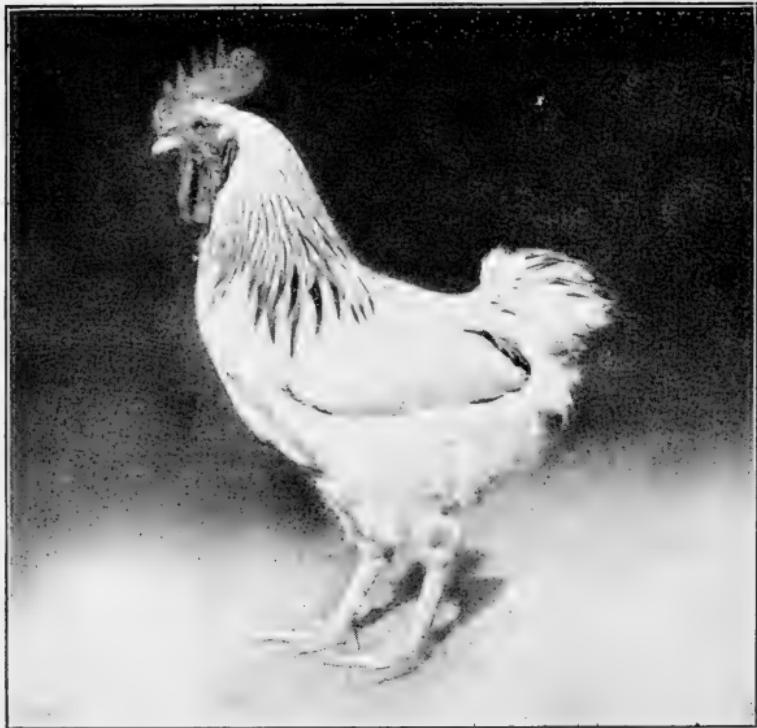
It is only after many years of breeding that a strain can be produced, for egg laying, superior table qualities of meat, type, color, comb or eye, and the only way to fix a quality is by pedigree or line breeding.

Mendelism teaches us that certain qualities are dominant and others recessive. Feathers dominant over silk (as in crossing feathered fowl on silky). Rose comb over single comb. Feathered leg over clean leg, etc., and a quality may be dormant in some generations to reappear in subsequent ones. It also teaches us that out crossing or the introduction of new blood is very prone to bring out defects of both strains after being bred out from each for many generations by means of careful selection.

It is apparent then that the introduction of new blood must be practiced with the greatest care and a trial made with a single mating using one of the progeny to breed into the flock.

Fortunately by means of line breeding it is not necessary to make an out cross oftener than once in five years.

Following the plan of the well-known breeder and judge J. K. Felch, whose pedigree chart has been followed by many breeders for years, three distinct lines are produced from an original pair. One follows the male side, one the



American Bred Light Sussex Cockerel, 1911. Seven Months Old When Photographed. Main Tail Feathers Not Grown

female, and the third possessing the blood of sire and dam in equal proportions without resorting to the mating of brother and sister, a proceeding which would soon result in ruining the flock.

When it is desired to produce a large flock in a short time the female line may be represented by a number of hens instead of one and then it will be necessary to trap nest.

This will settle at once the question of utility and any hen falling below a certain number of eggs per month should be discarded from the breeding pen.

Another great help in breeding for points is to set down in numerical order the points you wish to breed for, giving them their due importance, as 1, shape; 2, size; 3, color; 4, head-points, etc. Then in selecting never choose a breeder deficient in the first and second, but these points secured select the ones strongest in the remaining qualities.

The question of single or double matings should govern a beginner in his choice of the variety he wishes to promote.

Double mating is made necessary by the exhibition standard which requires color distribution different from the one established by nature for the two sexes. This complicates the system of breeding, requires many more breeding pens and doubles the number of wasters or birds which by reason of off color are good for utility only.



English Bred Red Sussex Cock, Winner Sussex Breed Cup 1910



## To Our Readers

The American Sussex Poultry Club was organized in July, 1909, for the purpose of advancing the breed and receiving for it the national recognition it deserves.

Many of our members have worked tirelessly in meeting the requirement of the A. P. A. for adoption by that body, but the petitions, etc., were smothered in the committee chamber. A lame excuse was offered after the convention that "new varieties" can only be admitted at certain years, but we fail to discover any such provision in the constitution and by-laws. The Sussex asked for admission to the Standard after complying with certain forms, but without looking into the matter a certain official rushes to the conclusion that we were asking a "Revision of the Standard." The assumption is all wrong; when a person makes request to the Board of Directors of a library to admit a certain book to the shelves of such library, it does not carry with it the request to destroy the current catalogues and publication of new. When the time comes for the new catalogue the new books previously admitted are added.

We feel sure that the A. P. A. will eventually see its error if such ragged business methods are allowed to continue and the American Sussex Poultry Club, having suffered one unjust rebuke, will not offer itself for another.

W. H. BRATT,  
Secretary.



English Bred Red Sussex Hen, 8 lbs. in Weight and of Good  
Even Color

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## *U. R. Fishel's White Plymouth Rocks*

are conceded by most every one who has tested all varieties to be the egg producers, the best table fowl and by far the best money makers, while as prize winners no breeder or variety has a greater record.

In fact, if you want

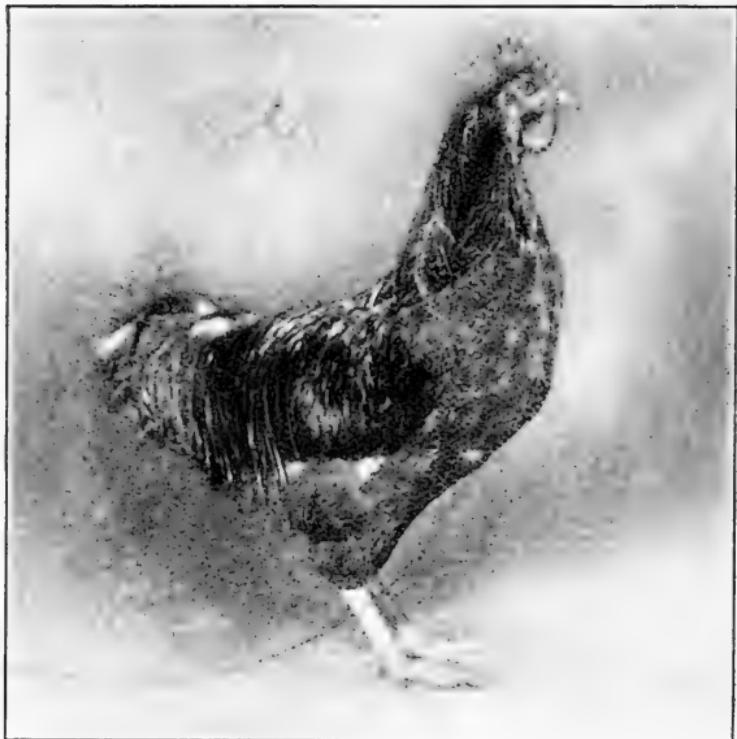
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**Box H**

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Modern Type and Rich Deep Red Color



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RED SUSSEX PULLET

English Bred Red Sussex Pullet

# Partridge Plymouth Rocks

The Wonderful New Fowl

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Won the laying contest in 1910 against all others

**BUT NOW**

Breed more true to type than any new breed ever did

**AND ALREADY**

Reproduce more true to type than many old breeds

**IN ADDITION TO**

Winning the name of "Beauty Breed" by the  
wondrous color.

**SO THAT**

They are today the best investment in all poultrydom.

**IF INTERESTED**

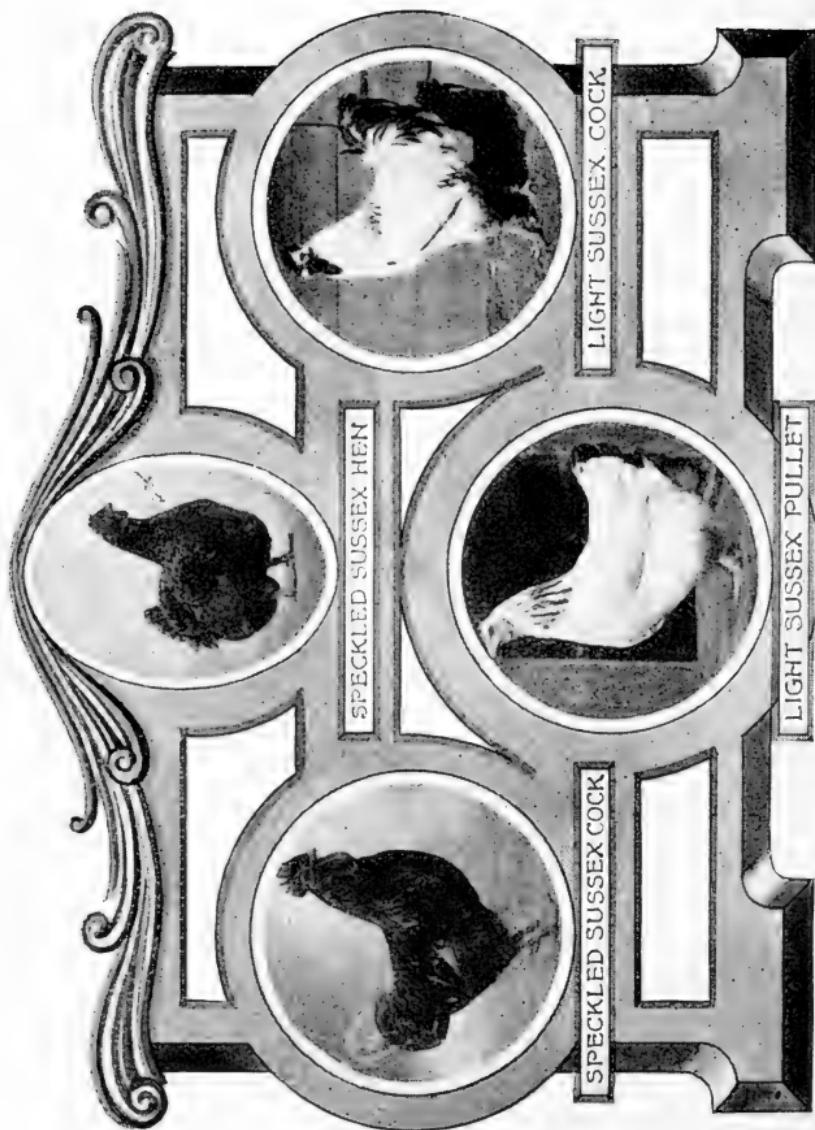
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S. A. NOFTZGER

Originator of the Partridge Plymouth Rock Fowl

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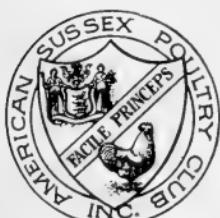
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\$3.00 per setting

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Are again the leading winners at Madison Square Garden, New York, December, 1910, and at Boston, January, 1911. At New York in the largest and strongest class of Partridge Cochins ever seen in the "Garden," I won 1, 2, 3 eks., 1, 2, 3 hens, 1, 2, 3 ekls., 1, 2, 3 plts. and 1 pen. At Boston in another remarkable class, I won 2, 3, 4 eks., 1, 2, 5 hens, 1, 2, 3 ekls., 1, 2, 3, 4 plts. and 1, 3 pens. I have a few yearling cocks and hens and a few of the finest of cockerels and pullets for sale at reasonable prices. For the first time in many years eggs from this wonderful strain of Partridge Cochins will be offered as early as April.

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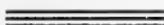
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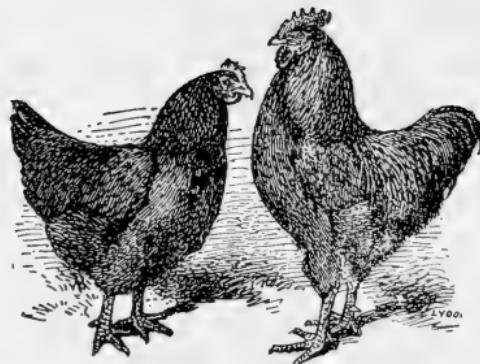
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BREEDER OF

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*EXCLUSIVELY*

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